

H-P-07-043

2006

REGION 4

INTRA-SERVICE SECTION 7 BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION FORM

[Note: This form provides the outline of information needed for intra-Service consultation. If additional space is needed, attach additional sheets, or set up this form to accommodate your responses.]

Originating Person: Thomas E. Lewis, Wildlife Biologist
Telephone Number: 850-653-8808 E-Mail: thom_lewis@fws.gov
Date: 15 September 2006

PROJECT NAME (Grant Title/Number): FY07 Prescribed Fire Management Plan for
Compartment 10 and 13.

I. Service Program:

☒ Refuges/Wildlife

II. State/Agency: n/a

III. Station Name: North Florida Refuge Complex, St. Vincent NWR

IV. Description of Proposed Action (attach additional pages as needed);

Use prescribed fire as a refuge management tool for hazardous fuel reduction and habitat improvement. See attached Fire Management Prescriptions and maps.

V. Pertinent Species and Habitat:

A. Include species/habitat occurrence map: See Maps in attached.

B. Complete the following table:

SPECIES/CRITICAL HABITAT	STATUS ¹
Bald Eagle	T
Red Wolf	E

¹STATUS: E=endangered, T=threatened, PE=proposed endangered, PT=proposed threatened, CH=critical habitat, PCH=proposed critical habitat, C=candidate species

VI. Location (attach map): Map 1

A. Ecoregion Number and Name: 30, Northeast Gulf Ecosystem.

B. County and State: Franklin, Florida

C. Section, township, and range (or latitude and longitude): Compartment 10
(Section 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 11, and 12: T 10S: R 9W), Compartment 13 (Section 25,

26, 27, 28, 35 and 36: T 9S: R 9W, Section 30 and 31: T9S: R 8W).

D. Distance (miles) and direction to nearest town: 6 mi. NE to Apalachicola, FL.

E. Species/habitat occurrence: Bald eagles have historically nested on St. Vincent NWR. Pairs return to their nesting territories in mid August through early October. Incubation and eaglet rearing occur throughout the winter and spring. All eaglets are fledged by early May. Eight active nesting territories occur on the refuge. Eagle nest FR032 occurs in Compartment 10 and No eagle nests are in compartment 13.

Red wolves inhabit St. Vincent NWR. They use a variety of habitats for foraging and generally den on dry ridges. Red wolves occasionally use Compartment 10 and seldom use Compartment 13 since most of it is salt marsh. No den sites have ever been documented in either of these compartments and the captive facility is located in Compartment 8.

VII. Determination of Effects:

A. Explanation of effects of the action on species and critical habitats in item V. B (attach additional pages as needed):

SPECIES/ CRITICAL HABITAT	IMPACTS TO SPECIES/CRITICAL HABITAT
Bald Eagle	Minimal direct effects to the Bald Eagles. Indirect effects are positive.
Red Wolf	Minimal direct effects to the Bald Eagles. Indirect effects are positive.

B. Explanation of actions to be implemented to reduce adverse effects:

SPECIES/ CRITICAL HABITAT	ACTIONS TO MITIGATE/MINIMIZE IMPACTS
Bald Eagle	1. Non- nesting season Rx Fire within nesting areas.
	2. Smoke management designed to direct smoke away from eagle nesting areas.
	3. Control of ladder fuels with hand clearing as needed to ensure fire does not damage nest trees.
	4. Nesting will be monitored by Wildlife Biologist.
	5. Keep staff informed on nesting status.

VIII. Effect Determination and Response Requested:

SPECIES/ CRITICAL HABITAT	DETERMINATION ¹			RESPONSE ¹ REQUESTED
	NE	NA	AA	
Bald Eagle		X		Concurrence

SPECIES/ CRITICAL HABITAT	DETERMINATION ¹			RESPONSE ¹ REQUESTED
	NE	NA	AA	
Red Wolf		X		Concurrence

¹DETERMINATION/RESPONSE REQUESTED:

NE = no effect. This determination is appropriate when the proposed action will not directly, indirectly, or cumulatively impact, either positively or negatively, any listed, proposed, candidate species or designated/proposed critical habitat. Response Requested is optional but a "Concurrence" is recommended for a complete Administrative Record.

NA = not likely to adversely affect. This determination is appropriate when the proposed action is not likely to adversely impact any listed, proposed, candidate species or designated/proposed critical habitat or there may be beneficial effects to these resources. Response Requested is a "Concurrence".

AA = likely to adversely affect. This determination is appropriate when the proposed action is likely to adversely impact any listed, proposed, candidate species or designated/proposed critical habitat. Response Requested for listed species is "Formal Consultation". Response Requested for proposed or candidate species is "Conference".

Thomas E. Neumann
signature (originating station)

Wildlife Biologist
title

15 Sep 2006
date

IX. Reviewing Ecological Services Office Evaluation: 4-P-DT-043

A. Concurrence X Nonconcurrence _____

B. Formal consultation required _____

C. Conference required _____

D. Informal conference required _____

E. Remarks (attach additional pages as needed):

Art Mize
signature

11-16-06
date

SPECIES/ CRITICAL HABITAT	ACTIONS TO MITIGATE/MINIMIZE IMPACTS
	6. Fire lines will keep unwanted fire out of nest areas.
SPECIES/ CRITICAL HABITAT	ACTIONS TO MITIGATE/MINIMIZE IMPACTS
Red Wolf	1. Non- denning season Rx Fire within denning areas.
	2. Captive red wolf facility will be protected from unwanted fire.
	3. Red wolves are monitored regularly by Wildlife Biologist.
	4. Denning will be monitored by Wildlife Biologist.
	5. Keep staff informed on denning status.
	6. Fire lines will keep unwanted fire out of denning areas.

Deputy Field Supervisor Panama City, FL
title office